

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Minister of Human Resource Development has written to all States where admission seats in technical education courses per one lakh population is less than the national average of 68 for degree level courses and 31 for diploma level courses in the year 2006. Such States have been requested to initiate appropriate programmes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for increasing the intake capacity in technical institutions. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has been advised to extend necessary support to such States in respect of degree level programmes.

(c) No such survey has been conducted.

(d) Does not arise.

New Mining Policy

***85. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to put in place a New Mining Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Governments are not granting mining lease rights within the stipulated period; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make it mandatory for State Governments to grant mining lease rights within the stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The delay in grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments is an issue for consideration which is being addressed in the National Mineral Policy 2007, under the consideration of Government.

Vocational training

***86. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that our vocational training lags far behind the